

8. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the promoter directs expression of the polynucleotide sequence in cotton fibers.

11. (Once Amended) A recombinant expression cassette comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a heterologous polynucleotide sequence encoding a cotton MYB polypeptide, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a sequence at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:1.

19. (Once Amended) A cotton plant comprising the expression cassette of claim 11.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-11 and 13-26 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-11, 13, 15 and 17-20 are rejected. Claims 1, 8, 11, and 19 have been amended. Claims 7 and 20 have been canceled. Claims 4, 6, 14, 16, and 21-26 are drawn to non-elected material (see Office Action, page 2) and have been canceled without prejudice to subsequent revival. Applicant reserve the right to pursue the cancelled claims in one or more subsequent applications. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

The Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephone interview that was granted on December 17, 2002. During the interview, the Examiner indicated that evidence of other MYB1 transcription factors from other species would be useful to enable the scope of the claims. Furthermore, the Examiner indicated that clarification on the measurable phenotypic changes that result from modulating transcription in transgenic cotton plants would likely advance prosecution. As explained in detail below, Applicant has provided evidence on both these points.